

Message Text

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TAGS: ELTN SA JA

SUBJECT: SAUDI RAILWAY NETWORK

1. ENGLISH LANGUAGE SAUDI REVIEW FOR MAY 8 REPORTS
SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
RAILWAY NETWORK INVOLVING JAPANESE PARTICIPATION.
ITEM: BEGIN QUOTE: SAUDI ARABIA IS MAKING PREPARATIONS
TO LINK ITS MAIN CITIES WITH RAILROADS. THE SAUDI
GOVERNMENT HAS UNOFFICIALLY ASKED JAPAN TO TAKE PART
IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 1,557 KILOMETER RAILROAD AT
A COST OF US \$4,250 MILLION TO BE DEVELOPED DURING
THE NEXT TEN YEARS. THREE MAIN RAILROADS WILL BE
BUILT: ONE LINKING JEDDAH WITH RIYADH, THE OTHER
JEDDAH WITH MEDINA AND THE THIRD JEDDAH WITH MECCA.
THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER PROJECT
TO LINK DAMMAM WITH AL JUBAIL. MEANWHILE, AN AMERICAN
COMPANY HAS APPROVED THE VIABILITY OF EXECUTING
THIS RAILWAY NETWORK. END QUOTE.

2. COMMENT: REFERENCE TO ROLE OF AMERICAN COMPANY
PROBABLY REFERS TO ARTHUR D. LITTLE (ADL) CONSULTANTS
AND APPARENT ADL RECOMMENDATION THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT
UPGRADE RAIL FREIGHT CARRYING CAPACITY BETWEEN EAST
AND WEST COAST PORTS, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION
OF RAILROAD LINKING PRESENT DAMMAM-RIYADH LINE WITH
WEST COAST.
PORTER

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